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Maintenance of international security — prevention of the violent disintegration of States

Letter dated 2 December 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the press statement of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia following a number of serious incidents on the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Albania (see annex).

I should be very grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Press statement issued on 30 November 1998 by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Following the serious border incidents in the area of the posts Gorozup and Liken, provoked from inside Albania on 27 and 28 November 1998, a strong protest note was delivered to the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Albanian Embassy in Belgrade at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today.

As is known, larger armed groups of terrorists with equipment attempted to illegally cross into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, using small arms fire and endangering the lives of Yugoslav border guards. In an effective action, the guards prevented all such attempts.

It was pointed out to the Albanian Chargé that the latest serious provocations from the Republic of Albania coincided with the intensified efforts towards a peaceful political solution in Kosovo and Metohija, which clearly demonstrates that these incidents were aimed at extending support to terrorists and opponents of dialogue and at causing political tension, so as to redirect attention and rechannel constructive efforts and thus deal a blow to the efforts for a peaceful political settlement.

To the high diplomatic representative of Albania was expressed the expectation that Albania, in line with its international obligations, would end the infiltration of terrorists, weapons and terrorist equipment. In particular, Albania was requested to close down all terrorist centres on its territory and to prevent terrorists, mujahedin, drug dealers and all elements of organized crime from transiting via its airports and ports for the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Such pre-planned incidents and policy of open support to separatism and terrorism are in gross violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and those of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 1160 (1998), and constitute a threat to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, emphasizes the protest note.